REMARKS

This is submitted to provide a listing of the claims to satisfy the non-compliant amendment dated March 30, 07. These claims are the claims provided with the response of September 6, 06, further updated in the listing provided herein starting on page 2 of this response by implementing the changes shown in the September 6 response. A copy of the claims as included in the September 6 response is provided as Appendix A of this response.

The December 1, 06 response was submitted to provide a specification showing the marking of the amended paragraphs. This is to satisfy the request of the Examiner, although it is believed that a substitute specification which entirely replaces the previous specification does not need to show markings of amended paragraphs.

This is to once again confirm that to my best knowledge and belief there is no new matter introduced as required under 37 CFR 1.125(b). This was previously stated in the response dated September 6, 06, on Page 9, lines 3-4.

It is anticipated that this amendment brings claims 1-10 and claims 16-20 to allowance. Please contact the undersigned if any question remains. Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper to deposit account 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

LISTING OF CLAIMS IN RESPONSE TRANSMITTED September 6, 06

CLAIMS

What is claimed, is:

(1) (currently amended) A sound source localization system comprising:

a sound reflecting element for generating ~~a~~ delay ~~deformation~~ information corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means;

a storage part for recording and storing the acoustic data collected via a said sound reflecting element; and

a sound source localization part for acquiring a sound source position, employing the acoustic data on which said delay ~~deformation~~ information is superposed.

(2) (currently amended) The sound source localization system according to claim 1, wherein said sound reflecting element is formed as a spheroid associated with the relative position between the sound source and sound collecting means to generate said delay ~~deformation~~ information intrinsic to said relative position.

(3) (currently amended) The sound source localization system according to claim 1, wherein said sound source localization part comprises a standard template storage part for storing a standard template containing ~~an~~ intrinsic delay ~~deformation~~ information generated by a white noise sound source, a background noise template storage part for storing a background noise template, a residual generation part for calculating a residual from said acoustic data, employing said standard template and said background noise template, and a selection part for selecting the standard template giving the least residual, employing the generated residual.

(4) (original) The sound source localization system according to claim 3, wherein said standard template storage part stores the standard template and the sound source position giving said standard template in association.

(5) (original) The sound source localization system according to claim 1, wherein said sound source localization system comprises at least one sound reflecting element, and simultaneously acquires positional data of the sound source including a range to the sound source, an azimuth and an elevation as said relative position.

(6) (currently amended) A sound source localization method for acquiring the position of a sound source under the control of an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a step of collecting the acoustic data with ~~a~~ delay ~~deformation~~ information superposed corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means;

a step of storing said collected acoustic data in a storage part; and

a step of reading the acoustic data with said delay ~~deformation~~ information superposed and acquiring said relative position of said sound source designated by said delay ~~deformation~~ information.

(7) (currently amended) The sound source localization method according to claim 6, wherein said delay ~~deformation~~ information is generated by reflection from a spheroid associated with said relative position between the sound source and sound collecting means, and said delay ~~deformation~~ information is generated intrinsic to said relative position.

(8) (currently amended) The sound source localization method according to claim 6, wherein said sound source localization step comprises a step of reading out a standard template from a standard template storage part for storing the standard template containing ~~a~~ delay ~~deformation~~ information intrinsic to said relative position generated by a white noise sound source, a step of

reading out a background noise template from a background noise template storage part for storing the background noise template, a step of calculating a residual from said acoustic data, employing said standard template and said background noise template, and a step of selecting the standard template giving the least residual, employing the generated residual.

(9) (original) The sound source localization method according to claim 6, wherein said selection step comprises a step of referring to the selected standard template and acquiring the sound source position corresponding to said standard template.

(10) (original) The sound source localization method according to claim 6, further comprising a step of simultaneously acquiring the range, azimuth and elevation as said relative position from said acquired sound source position to said sound source.

(11) (withdrawn) A sound reflecting element for generating ~~a~~ delay ~~deformation~~ information corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means, wherein a reflecting surface of said sound reflecting element has an envelope made from a plurality of spheroids that are formed by rotating a plurality of ellipses having the distance between the focal points corresponding to the distance from said sound source to said sound collecting means around an axis connecting said focal points.

(12) (withdrawn) The sound reflecting element according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of ellipses are generated in relation with the elevation between said sound source and said sound collecting means and flatter as said elevation is greater.

(13) (withdrawn) The sound reflecting element according to claim 11, wherein said reflecting surface is formed as an enveloping surface of said plurality of spheroids that are generated by rotating a corresponding ellipse around the axis connecting said focal points.

(14) (withdrawn) A formation method of a sound reflecting element comprising:

generating ~~a~~ delay ~~deformation~~ information corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means;

a step of generating a plurality of spheroids by rotating an ellipse having the distance between the focal points corresponding to the distance from said sound source to said sound collecting means around an axis connecting said focal points; and

a step of forming a reflecting surface by generating an enveloping surface of said plurality of spheroids.

(15) (withdrawn) The formation method of the sound reflecting element according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of ellipses are generated in relation with the elevation between said sound source and said sound collecting means and flatter as said elevation is greater.

(16) (New) The sound source localization system according to claim 1, wherein said sound reflecting element is an element for generating the delay information corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means, wherein a reflecting surface of said sound reflecting element has an envelope made from a plurality of spheroids that are formed by rotating a plurality of ellipses having the distance between the focal points corresponding to the distance from said sound source to said sound collecting means around an axis connecting said focal points.

(17) (New) The sound source localization system according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of ellipses are generated in relation with the elevation between said sound source and said sound collecting means and flatter as said elevation is greater.

(18) (New) The sound source localization system according to claim 16, wherein said reflecting surface is formed as an enveloping surface of said plurality of spheroids that are generated by rotating a corresponding ellipse around the axis connecting said focal points.

(19) (New) The sound source localization system according to claim 1, wherein said sound reflecting element is an element generated by a formation method comprising:

generating delay information corresponding to a relative position between a sound source and sound collecting means;

a step of generating a plurality of spheroids by rotating an ellipse having the distance between the focal points corresponding to the distance from said sound source to said sound collecting means around an axis connecting said focal points; and

a step of forming a reflecting surface by generating an enveloping surface of said plurality of spheroids.

(20) (New) The sound source localization system according to claim 19, wherein said plurality of ellipses are generated in relation with the elevation between said sound source and said sound collecting means and flatter as said elevation is greater.